

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

RE: 2009 ALABAMA DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST (RAIN/FLOOD)

I am writing to request your urgent assistance on behalf of all Alabama agricultural producers. Over the past 60 days, as a result of natural disasters and extraordinary rainfall and flooding, large numbers of Alabama agricultural producers, throughout the entire state of Alabama, have been confronted with severe problems regarding actual loss of crops and direct loss of crops because of farmers' inability to harvest same because of the extraordinarily wet conditions. These conditions have impacted a large number of Alabama crops, but most significantly cotton, soybeans, and peanuts. It is my understanding that your department already issued a disaster declaration for most of the counties in the state of Mississippi. I represent to you that the situation here in Alabama is at least comparable to that in Mississippi. The wet conditions are extremely abnormal and are causing Alabama agricultural producers extreme hardship.

I respectfully ask for your assistance in declaring all of Alabama's counties or the appropriate counties in the state of Alabama as disaster areas. Therefore, I request that you instruct Mr. Daniel Robinson, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, to proceed as quickly as possible with a formal damage assessment of all counties in Alabama to determine the extent of agricultural losses to date, and to provide you with an accurate assessment of the outlook for future losses. I have absolute confidence that such an assessment will result in a finding that a disaster declaration would be appropriate at the present time and that the conditions will worsen over the foreseeable future. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Riley". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and "R".

Bob Riley
Governor

BR/KW/rdg

cc: Commissioner Ron Sparks – Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Assistant Commissioner Hassey Brooks – Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Daniel Robinson – Alabama USDA Farm Service Agency
Jerry Newby – Alabama Farmers Federation